

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 011555Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4706

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

ASMISSION UN NEW YORK 1287

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

ASNMR SHALE

USDOCOSOUTH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: CONSOLIDATION OF POWER WITHIN THE MINISTRY
OF DEFENSE.

1. ATHENS PRESS JULY 31 AND AUGUST 1 REPORTED IMMINENT ISSUE OF

CONSTITUENT ACT WHICH WILL RESTORE TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE POWERS
AND COMPETENCIES WHICH HAD BEEN DIFFUSED DURING THE PAPADOPOULOS
REGIME AMONG THE OFFICES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, THE

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PRIME MINISTER AND THE CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE NEWS

REPORTS COMMENT THAT SUCH ACTION WILL RESTORE THE
DEFENSE MINISTRY TO ITS "NATURAL POSITION" WHEREBY IT CAN FULLY

AND CAPABLY ADMINISTER ALL MATTERS RIGHTFULLY PERTAINING
TO ITS JURISDICTION.

2. COMMENT: SUCH A MOVE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECT THE CARAMANLIS
GOVERNMENT'S URGENT DESIRE TO INSURE THE ARMY'S RETURN TO THE
BARRACKS AND ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM NATIONAL POLICY-MAKING DUTIES.
WHILE THE COMPETENR ES#TO BE RETURNED TO THE

DEFENSE MINISTER ARE NOT SPELLED OUT IN PRESS ACCOUNTS, THEY WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY ENABLE THE MINISTER TO MONITOR THE ARMED SERVICES
TO HELP PREVENT INTER ALIA THE FORMATION AND OPERATION OF
CONSPIRATORIAL GROUPINGS WHICH LED TO BOTH THE APRIL 196- # AND

NOVEMBER 1973 COUPS.
TASCA

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Type: TE
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